Trade Agreements with Germany, Russia and China after New Budget Proposals

676. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of the countries with which Trade Agreement have been signed by his Ministry particularly after the announcement of new budget proposals during the year 1992, and is likely to be signed during the year 1992-93 including Germany, Russia and China ;

(b) what are the details of Indian goods agreed upon for trade/export proposed to be encouraged with such countries keeping in view the country's interests ; and

(c) what are the names of the countries which have recently sent to India their Trade/Business Missions for increase in trade with our country in view of the recent economic liberalisation policy followed/announced by Government and the outcome of results advised in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHINDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) It is our endeavour to increase bilateral trade with all countries. After the announcement of new budget proposals the Trade Agreements have been signed with Kyrghyzstan, Ukraine and Turkmenistan. The Agreement with Russia was also initialled on 22nd February, 1992. The Agreement signed with Ukraine, Kyrghyzstan and Turkmenistan provide for trade on the basis of international prices and in freely convertible international currencies. No list of goods for export to these countries have been attached to the Agreement.

(c) The official level delegations from some West European Countries Thailand, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iran, China, Mauritius, Ghana, Nigeria, Namibia Angola and Zaire have visited India since August, 1991. Apart from identification of items of mutual interests, the discussions with these delegations have helped in arriving at a fuller understanding of concerns of each other.

Financial crisis to exporters of leathers products to Soviet Union

677. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that exporters of leather products to the former Soviet Union are facing any financial crisis ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) The problem has surfaced for exporters in general, in the absence of rupee generation arising ou of exports to India by countries of the former Soviet Union, as the exports have not commenced under the New Protocol. The matter has been brought to the notice of the concerned Governments who have been urged to begin supplies of commodities and raw materials as per the trade protocol to India so that Indian exports can also effectively take place.

Import of ball bearings

678. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Ball and Roller Bearing Manufacturers Association alleging that under-invoicing of large imports of ball bearings has pushed the indigenous industry into a crisis ;

(b) whether low quality bearings were imported from China and the Eastern Block countries ;

(c) whether the importers are paying only 10 per cent duty while indigenous manufacturers have to pay heavy duty on important of raw materials and excise duty on manufactured bearing ; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to protect the indigenous manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No tests in respect of quality of bearings are done at the time of import.

(c) and (d) Ball and Roller Bearing are chargeable to varying rates of basic customs duty ranging from Rs. 25 per bearing to 110% ad valorem in terms of Notification No. 70/89-Cus. dated 01-03-1989 as amended. All Ball and Roller Bearings are exempted from auxiliary duty with effect from 30-4-1992. Raw materials for the manufacture of bearings attract duty at varying rates not exceeding 110% depending on the classification under the Customs Tariff. The rate of countervailing duty is 23% *ad valorem* on imported bearings. The bearings manufactured indigenously are also leviable to excise duty @ 23% ad valorem.

In the wake of reports of large scale under-invoicing of imports of ball and roller bearings after the Budget 1992-93, the Government has prescribed specific rates or specific-cum *ad valorem* rates for majority if ball and roller bearings with effect from 30-04-1992.

Indo-Singapore Trade Corridors

679. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to set up Indo-Singapore Trade Corridors in India was discussed ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what are the details of areas under consideration for the said proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) A proposal to set up an Indo-Singopore Industrial Corridor has been discussed with the Government of Singapore. The proposal is aimed at attracting investment by Singapore companies in joint ventures in selected sectors and the development and upgradation of infrastructure facilities. Individual Singapore companies would take a decision for investment in such a corridor on commercial considerations.

The Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu and the Union Territory of Pondicherry have offered facilities for locating such a corridor. This has been conveyed to the Singaporean authorities.

Issue of Import and Export licences

680. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of Import and Export licences issued after the liberalisation of Economy ;

(b) what is the number of companies in India which are making export worth over Rs. 14 crores per year ; and

(c) what are the names of such Export houses together with the value of export thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The number of Import and Export Licences issued from July, 1991 to March 1992, excluding Exim Scrips, is 48,440 and 563 respectively.

(b) The data relating to the companies which are making exports is not maintained.

(c) The names of Members Exporters of Federation of Indian Export Organisation and their export value for the year, 1990-91 and 1991-92 is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLXII, Annexure No. 10].

जी० आई० पाइपों के लिए दर संविदा

681. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी :** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री 10 दिसम्बर, 1991 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 1754 के